

### May 9, 2022 Fire Board Meeting Minutes

The May Fire Board meeting was called to order by Chief Ryan Krings at 6:30 pm. Attendees included: Dale Burghart (Town of Winneconne), Russ VanGompel (Town of Winneconne), Jim Hanneman (Town of Poygan), Gary Witzke (Village of Winneconne), Myles Guerard (Village of Winneconne), Brian Miller (EMS BC), Al Anderson (Assistant Fire Chief) and Michelle LaMarche (Administrative Assistant).

No previous meeting minutes were read/available due to two past meetings did not include quorum, so meetings were not conducted.

**EMS Operations:** 4 of the 6 scheduled EMS Training sessions have been completed and the last two are scheduled for February and April of 2023. Calls have been consistent.

**Fire Operations:** New software for WPFd is up and running. Fireworks software will allow all incidents and maintenance of equipment to be entered into a new software program. All officers and EMS personnel have been trained on entering appropriate data.

8 new Radios have been purchased for the department. All vehicles have new radios for each seat except Rescue 28 and EMS officers have new radios. Franks Radio is servicing our new radios and recommended to continue to purchase new radios as needed along the way. All speaker mics and chargers are also interchangeable which we had been previously informed by Motorola they were not. There is also NO stop date for use of old radios.

No new information at this time on the SCBA grant which has been submitted.

2 members of the WPFd Bennet Krings and Max Schmidt have accepted full time positions with Neenah/Menasha Fire. Both passed their Paramedic class and will be taking their National Registry test the end of May. The HS Fire program has 5 students participating in it, all passed their Entry level test and will need to complete their certification on May 21<sup>st</sup>. One member has applied to the department and has been approved. Dr. Michaud WHS principle has received a \$9000 grant for the upcoming semester class.

Last Saturday the Training Center Landscape project was completed with final seed placement being done today. Phase 1 is complete. An application has been submitted to Alliant Energy to run permanent power to building for basic services. Phase 2 will begin with indoor training props to be built. Chief thanked the Board members for the support WPFd has received to help complete the project.

There have been 156 total calls to date.

Updates to the fire house include a new handicap accessible door with appropriate swing.

May 31, 2024, is the projected retirement date for Chief Krings. Options will need to be discussed on the replacement position of Chief. No current members have expressed any interest in the position to date. Chief Krings feels it should be a Full-time position. Board asked a few questions regarding the replacement position including potential financial commitments.

Jim Hanneman asked if current radios can be fixed. Chief did report yes current radios are fixable and have replacement capabilities. Every 2 years maintenance is being done on the current radios. After the current contract is finished with BayCom, Frank's Radio will be taking over the maintenance. Jim also asked if the students coming in for the Fire Class have a fee to pay. Chief informed the group there will

be grant money available to cover the cost of the student's boots, hood and gloves which normally would be a cost to the student. Jim asked if there was a list of activities to volunteer for, chief stated there are many volunteer opportunities and WPFd is always looking for volunteers.

Russ VanGompel asked about the timeline to start discussing options for recruitment for the Chief position. Chief Krings suggested by January of 2024, Russ suggested earlier. Gary Witzke suggested recruitment in the late summer or fall of 2023. He also asked about the proposed budget for a paid full time chief. Chief Krings will get local information on paid department salaries of a similar size such as the Town of Clayton and provide to the board. A transition period would be recommended for a smooth process to occur. Chief Krings also recommended future restructuring of the department to include one deputy chief, with the Training, EMS and Public relation officers being Assistant Chiefs. Next meeting will focus on the future recruitment development of new Chief Position.

Meeting adjourned at 7:18 pm

Respectfully submitted, Michelle LaMarche